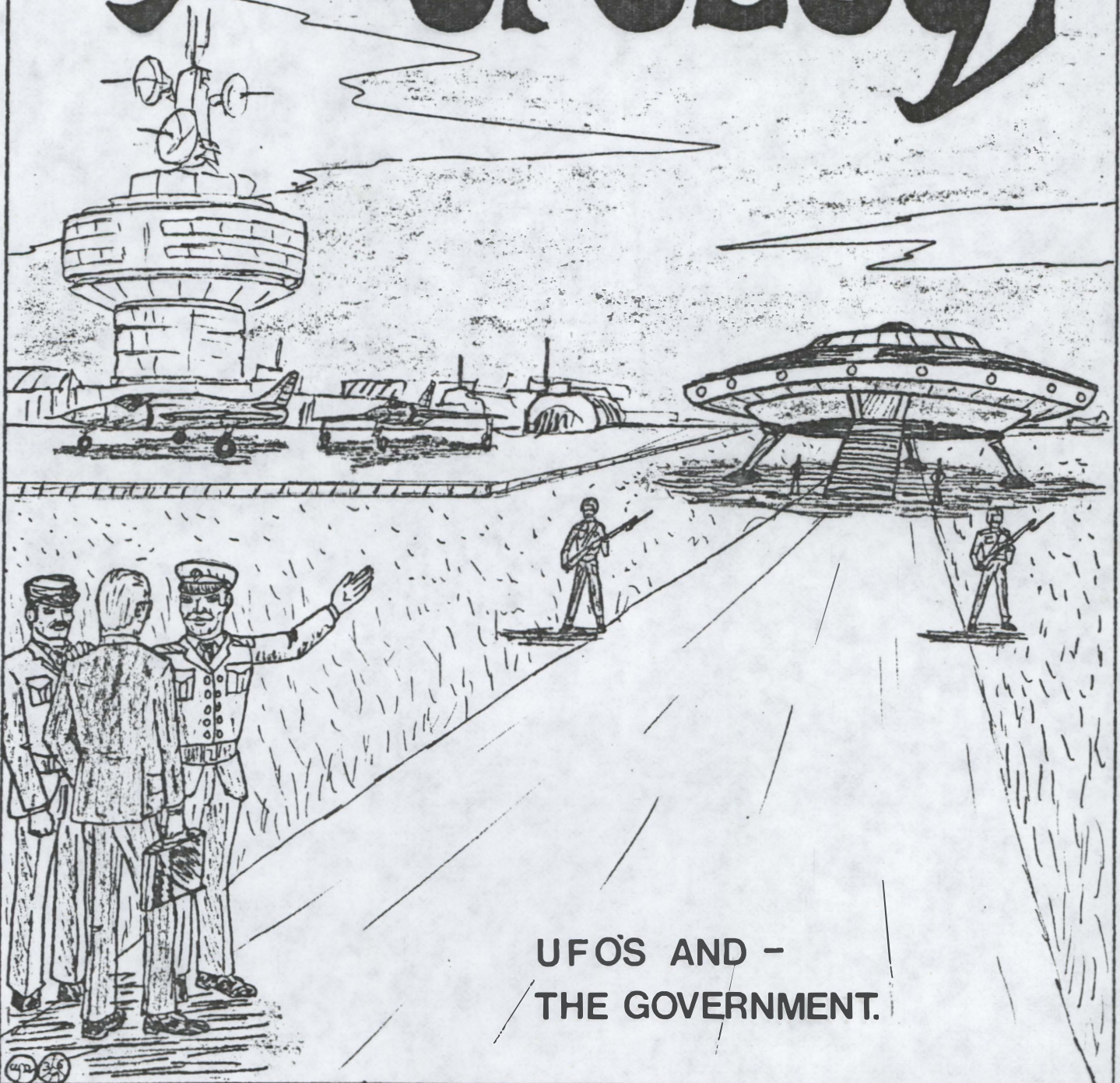


NORTHERN UFOLOGY



UFO'S AND -
THE GOVERNMENT.

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THE PURPOSE OF NORTHERN UFOLOGY

There has been a pleasingly good response to the first two issues of Northern Ufology, in its new format. However, a few puzzle at why we devote each issue to articles of varying value. The reason is, of course, that the purpose of this publication style is to allow you to have your say on a specific subject, and also to enable outsiders to gauge the varying approaches of 'ufologists' in differing categories to fundamental problems. We would like to hear your ideas for themes for future issues please. Meanwhile, for the October issue the theme will be: UFO RESEARCH - What should we do? So give us your thoughts on how we should try to unravel the problems of the phenomenon. Maybe you are doing it already!

NEWS REVIEW

!! Important changes to note in the group UAPROL. Trevor Thornton is to move to a new job in Iran shortly, but the group continues as healthy as ever. The new secretary and contact address is: Robert Shepherd 24 Webbs Way, Stoney Stanton, Leicestershire (Tel: Sapcote 3590) The hot-line numbers will continue at the home of Vice Chairman John Barden. Kevin McClure will take over UFOIN liaison. Good luck Trevor, and thanks for all your work in the past. UAPROL are shortly to launch the first of a new series of ventures - filmed documentaries (with the aid of the original witnesses), reconstructing interesting cases. It's a clever idea for screening at public relations events.

!! Several people have asked whether there are any plans to return to the 'Detailed Case Supplements', once issued on an irregular basis on interesting cases. In truth problems of expense play a part, and agreements with FSR have aided the matter (they now publish several NUFON cases per annum). However, moves are underfoot for UFOIN to publish a magazine, aimed specifically at the involved ufologist. So perhaps room might be found there for a part return to this scheme.

!! One publication that has been published (at last I hear you say!) is the NUFON report on the massive wave year of 1977. It follows the format for previous reports with a full analytical data list on all 315 cases on file, plus statistical breakdowns and comparisons with other years. It is available now at 30p (post inclusive) from the editor. (7 pages of data and tables, 3 pages of text)

!! Another 'at last'.... Robert Hale have finally announced publication of the book "UFOs: A British Viewpoint" by Jenny Randles and Peter Warrington for mid August. Cost is £5.25, and its 249 pages include graphs, drawings and photographs. The book is a complete analysis of the UFO phenomenon in Britain. Further details are available from the publishers at 45-47 Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0HT.

!! The MUFORA Salford University lectures went very well indeed, with around 130 people enjoying the talks by Charles Bowen, Jenny Randles & Peter Warrington. In fact MUFORA are planning a further event later in the year. The NUFON meeting did not go so well, however, with just 5 groups represented. Speaking of conferences, those who can afford it are certainly recommended to attend the BUFORA 2 day programme at the Mount Royal Hotel in London (Aug 25-26). A hotel/rail/congress package is available for between £40-£45 from the NUFON region (Congress attendance only is £10) Speakers include Dr Allen Hynek, Dr Leo Sprinkle, Dr Erol Faruk and Juan Ballester-Olmos. Details from: UFO Congress 7 Stratford Place, London W1A 4YU

PLEASE NOTE: Your editor will be on holiday from July 12 to 28. Any urgent matters during that period should be taken up with Peter Warrington in Manchester.

MAGAZINE ROUND-UP

The second issue of SOUTHERN UFO NEWS (6 New Rd, Chipernham, Romsey, Hants) is out to prove that SUFON is well and truly underway. Mostly southern cases but an article about arch-debunkers Ian Ridpath and Philip Klass is included. MUFOB issue for Spring 79 is out (11 Beverley Rd, New Malden, Surrey KT3 4AW.....£1.75 pa). Its excellent value, as always, with articles by Nigel Watson on a CE4 contact (new to NUFON readers) and Jenny Randles on investigation problems. ASWR -6B (5 Egton Dr, Seaton Carew, Hartlepool, Cleveland TS25 2AT...£2 pa) is a review publication for books and magazines on mysteries. CHRYSLIS 79 (48 Britannia Place, Redcar, Cleveland) publishes its latest with interesting articles on ley lines, statistics, entities and more (plus John Watson's artwork and his strip cartoon - CAL) SKYWATCH for May/June 79 (92 Hillcrest Rd, Offerton, Stockport) has an interview with Allen Hynek, more criticism of Ian Ridpath, and one of Bernard Delair's always fascinating pieces. Nice to see UFOSIS relaunch PROTEUS too - good luck with that.

SAY WHAT YOU FEEL..... A. Lee. En

When anyone who has been involved in the field of UFO investigation, research etc looks back, as I have done, on their involvement I think they will find that they are only doing what they, or someone else, was doing two or three years ago. There does not seem to be any sign of the progress so typical of science. We still pile up reports of next to no value, looking at them every so often and then putting them back in their dusty folders. When I wonder, where can we go from here, I only come up with the answer....nowhere!

Coming to that conclusion, the obvious step is to pursue other subjects which might be more enlightening to our way of life (eg birdwatching). To take a more serious step a first need would be to scrap all UFO groups. This would of course swell the dole queues, making hundreds of ufologists unemployed, but at least it would leave room for the activists to breathe. If we sidestep to other, possibly, affiliated fields with similar resources we may learn more. Yet the answers here may also be negative ones because it is probable that there is no answer (at least as we want to define an answer). We could be looking in totally the wrong direction, staring at the stars when the answer is a few million miles closer than that. Maybe we just have to accept that there is nothing to investigate or research, and be content that we could be wasting our time... but then doesn't everybody?

(A. Lee. En would be interested in your views on any subject)

UFOs AND THE GOVERNMENT.....1) "Some Thoughts" by Geoffrey Grundill (NUN reader)

I believe that the government are keeping a giant cover-up of UFO data, and I also believe that some UFO groups (especially large organisations) are keeping silent for some reason. They may have reached conclusions about the origin of the UFO phenomenon, which they do not wish to make known to the general public. It is odd that UFO witnesses are rarely told of the conclusions of an investigation - by either the MOD or a UFO group. What is there to hide that might cause panic?

We must also ponder upon the meaning of these mysterious individuals - the Men in Black (MIB) who are apparently helping the cover-up to function. They use phone tapping and silencing methods beloved by the CIA and this may give a hint as to who they really are. I think they must belong to some kind of government agency acting in secret, and who are doing all they can to prevent the truth about UFOs reaching the ears of the general public. It seems to me that they act as a kind of informer who passes on to the higher authority what investigators, researchers and witnesses are doing and know about the phenomenon. If it seems that they are getting too close then they act. I also feel that it is highly probable that these MIBs do not always act in the open. It would be important for them to get to the heart of the matter, and this could involve working for a UFO organisation - perhaps without their knowing that this particular member is in fact a government agent.

I am working on my own project into MIB stories and I would like to hear from anyone who can help me. My address is: Silvette, Richmond Close, Workington, Cumbria.

It is my personal view that the governments of the world do know what is going on, but that they do not however know why they are happening or how they would admit at the present moment that UFOs exist. I suspect that the current energy crisis, in which it is forecast that the world will grind to a proverbial halt in not too many years will force the scientists of various countries, either separately or in unison, to search for an alternative propulsion method that does not have the side effects of current products. The government order will, secretly, point to the known existence of craft that can apparently enter or leave our atmosphere at will with no sound, pollution or drain on financial resources!

The government will not be aided by the occupants of these craft at the present moment. World leaders are sadly not sufficiently advanced in a moral sense to see the use of such power in peaceful terms. It may take time, although this writer (and others) might discern a faint glimmer of hope on the horizon that mankind is looking at signposts that have always been there, but to which he has previously turned a blind eye.

The world governments will be feverishly looking into telekinesis, ESP, 'Out of Body Experiences', EM effects and other formerly esoteric sciences. Note a new book due out soon by a couple of doctors on how the mind can keep the body in good health simply by 'positive' thought - and vice versa. Not too long ago to utter such things would have heralded two men in white coats coming to take you away!

I was convinced long ago that our government is aware that something is 'going on' in our skies, over which they have little or no control. My own UFO experiences were all the proof I needed. I had the local RAF base and other official sources telling me that I had not seen what I definitely had (two noisy Meteor Jet fighters persuing a glowing cigar which eventually left them trailing empty space). Until they uncover the answers they maintain strict silence and firm denials. Examples were the New Zealand 'ships lights', the so-called 'satellite re-entry' on New Years Eve, and the photos, allegedly at the Florida Computer Enhancement Centre taken by a Southampton pressman and given to a national newspaper (both of whom now fail to even acknowledge correspondence on the matter)

It is obvious that the government can say just what they decide to say, and can, and do, tell the most outrageous lies. When admitting the same their attitude is one of 'its for your own good'. Looking back at UFO history there have been examples (eg Bender) that make the acceptable supposition 'this thing is bigger than both of us' seem relevant.

Looking at the world I sense that we may be entering a new era that may accelerate the solution. Maybe some will be brought down or attitudes radically alter. There is no chance at all that the governments are unaware that UFOs exist. **NONE AT ALL!** Certainly they are aware of the gradually increasing contact with this world and also that the situation may not only change rapidly but that the solution is not in our hands. We have little choice so far as the intentions of the occupants are concerned - but whatever the outcome, a glance at the world today must only pose the inevitable response... could it possibly be any worse?

UFOs AND THE GOVERNMENT.....3) "The Men In Black" by John Watson (CHRYISIS)

Since UFOs were first thought of as extraterrestrial spacecraft people have wondered if the various governments of the world know more than they are telling. One theory is that UFOs are really experiential craft or weapons, built by the human race and being tested in secrecy. Another is that they are extraterrestrial in origin but that the major powers are fully aware of this and actually possess the remnants of crashed spacecraft complete with occupants. Either way there are strong motivations to keep silent.

Whatever the truth really is the problem is lack of data that we can examine to try to come to a decision. There is, however, one aspect that we can take a tentative look at. It has been cropping up from time to time throughout UFO history and gives the cases it effects an almost melodramatic quality. This is the aspect of the Men in Black - or the MIBs.

The witness involved in such an experience will claim that, after making his statement to the press or whoever he or she received a visit from one or more men dressed in black who attempts to coerce them into changing their statement or forgetting it altogether. These sinister characters do not always dress in black, though. Here in Cleveland a couple of years ago we had reports of witnesses being visited by two tall blonde men wearing blue denims, and driving a yellow Volkswagen car. Their outfit may have differed, but their approach was that of the MIB.

Whether in black or blue they appear to be real - so who are they? Witnesses to some of the more bizarre cases claim that the MIBs said they were from other worlds and needed secrecy to protect knowledge of their presence on earth. Others say the MIBs gave no indication as to who they were. Without interviewing one it is rather difficult to determine if they are aliens or not, so assuming they are human who is behind them? Let's look at the possibility it is the government.

As I said before there are reasons for a cover-up that are logical. Accidental witnesses would presumably have to be 'silenced' in some way. The motive is there but are the powers that be taking action? In recent months there have been several first class sightings, and although the usual 'Venus' or 'Meteor' explanations were offered there was never any attempt at a cover-up. Indeed government offered explanations are often so stupid and desperate that one begins to suspect that they are merely trying to be all-knowing about a subject of which they are almost totally ignorant. No - if governments are guilty of anything it is apathy - not secrecy. They have plenty of other things to worry about.

So if not governments - who? Aliens... flying saucer fans? Perhaps they are just people who get their kicks by dressing in black and scaring UFO witnesses! Whatever you believe they cannot be ignored for they are still a part of the total enigma. We must remember that we have to research all avenues of the UFO subject - no matter how bizarre. Perhaps then we shall find the answers we are seeking - including those about the mysterious Men in Black.

UFOs AND THE GOVERNMENT.....4) "Official Encounters" by Ron Sergeant (MUFORA)

What are the governments of the world aware of with regards the UFO phenomenon? I think the answer would be that something is happening within the atmosphere that is not readily explained. Yet a few governments do express deep interest in UFOs, even to the point of stating that they believe them to be extraterrestrial.

Is the British government involved in any way? There is a ministry department (MOD) interested in UFOs from the point of view of airspace security of the UK. The official statement goes no further than this. The manner in which successive governments have controlled this country makes sense of that statement, but are we to believe that a mystery so persistent and common to all classes of society, including some very reputable people, would be ignored from all other viewpoints except the one chance that they could turn out to show a hole in our defences?

The obvious intelligent view is that the government do have a study of UFOs in operation that is more than domestic in its reaches. The present conclusions of such an investigation can only be guessed at, but I think it can be accepted as recognising the reality of UFOs. It may accept that UFOs are of great importance to humanity, but I don't think that the authorities are certain that the implications are beneficial. This doubt that they might be threatful is a necessary cause of secrecy and cover-up.

Why is this so? Well, UFOs are superior to us. No one mystery has been around for so long and been so widespread and spectacular in its many manifestations, whilst still defying human solution. Whatever UFOs are they are superior. Thus our government is uncertain. To do anything about a problem one needs all the facts. The ufological fact is confusing. So how could a definite statement be put out as a satisfactory answer to the phenomenon? The authorities are powerless to do anything other than study and speculate.

If they released any information of what the official knowledge contains it might only serve to confuse even more. Though if there is an official conclusion as to the origins of UFOs then the demands to do something about the situation could only make the running of the country and our daily problems unbearable (especially if the conclusion is that we cannot do anything anyway). The classic panic situation has also got to be a valid reason for secrecy.

Could such a secret be kept from the public? Rumours about a cover-up are, of course, always available. Individuals frequently make accusations. Not many get public airing and those that do are put down to imagination and eccentricities. This ridicule factor could be one of the best allies of those who seek to keep the secret. Of course it is dependable also on what UFOs are. If they are from outer space it would, even today, be linking oneself with science fiction and little green men. If they are from inner space it would mean placing one's sanity in doubt just as much.

No matter what political party is in power within government there are long term projects that do not have interruptions from the temporary comings and goings of political life. The majority of politicians would not have security clearance to such secrets as a UFO Investigation project. Ones who do are forever threatened by the official secrets act. The world of James Bond exists just as much as the UFO phenomenon. I think the government does know what is around in our skies, but to officially state 'we are not alone' is something humans are not yet prepared for. No matter how clever individuals might think they know better 'we are not alone' is a powerful statement with much meaning. Are you prepared?

UFOs AND THE GOVERNMENT.....5) "The Department" by David Sydeserff (UFOIN)

When you think about it there must be a government involvement in UFOs. Probably every UFO investigator reading this has found at least one 'unexplained' sighting - unexplained sufficiently to cast suspicion that our country (if not the world) is under surveillance by a superior intelligence capable of over-throwing a power-hungry, greedy and selfish society. They may never do it, I could be wrong, but kindly argue otherwise to convince a government who are demanded to protect our country.

And if we, the people, suspect this then what further information have the government obtained via their Top Secret channels? So, I argue, there must be involvement. Disagree if you will, but I wish to probe further from this basis.

It is said that UFOs fall under the MOD. We know S4 (Air) is a department dealing with low-flying complaints, and receiving reports "to pass onto specialist staffs" etc. Yet in FSR Vol 24 No 1 Sir Victor Goddard stated that the Treasury had not backed any full study by the MOD - and I agree that what the Treasury says goes. (The world runs on economics, not the military, ask any oil sheik) Yet what if the Treasury sanctioned unlimited finance (acting on my first two paragraphs) not to the military - but to a political investigation?

Therefore, still reserving the MOD I would like to suggest that there is a body (which I entitle "The Department") acting from authority of top rank Civil Servants, separate from all ministries but in liaison with them. Inevitably this would principally mean the MOD (where reports are received at secretarial level and forwarded secretly without notifying the top administration, who would be assumed to know anyway), plus Home, Foreign and Commonwealth Offices (top brass only, including DI5 / SIS intelligence directorates) Let's further say it can tap the resources of the Departments of Environment, Education etc, to obtain expert advice on how to combat or contact.

More political are the methods of obtaining reports. More than one government employee has seen UFOs, and reported them, but no in-depth investigation has been taken to eliminate government interest. INSTEAD IT IS REPORTED TO AMATEUR UFO INVESTIGATION GROUPS. Who receives most reports of UFOs? Probably 90% of all reported? AMATEUR UFO INVESTIGATION GROUPS!

If we now ask how "The Department" would go about obtaining these for their own analysis (using better resources than we can ever have!) the answer is simple. Put an undercover agent into a group. Full-time, worming his or her own way perhaps from being a passive member to Investigations Coordinator - perhaps to Chairman. Or maybe not just enter a group but establish one of your own? For a DI5 agent to operate in an amateur public group compared to a PLO assassination cell would be little more than child's play.

Initially, the objective would be to gain copies of the reports - which is simple as they are published in various periodicals. Confidential items are on files, but they can be consulted. After that time can be spent ensuring that the groups do not get too persuasive and have the government put in a difficult public position. The action taken would be to deliberately undermine the success and credibility of the groups. The various setbacks in UFO Investigation cooperation are quite clear, especially over recent months.

Of course space precludes me from answering all the problems here, such as why the UFOs have not stepped in or why so much information is public (endangering the department). I would say that there is as much cause to suspect the existence of "The Department" as there is to suspect the existence of UFOs.... suspect, not prove.

UFOs AND THE GOVERNMENT.....6) "The Myth & The Reality" Dr Robert Morrell (NUFOIS)

Those who study the literature of ufology cannot fail to quickly meet with the notion that various governments have been shaken by the volume of UFO reports and the publicity accorded them, whilst in turn investigations conducted for these governments have revealed information which, if made public, might well shake the foundations of society. Moreover, it is seriously suggested that the United States government actually has a crashed flying saucer under wraps and its deceased crew in a deep-freezer. An organisation called 'Citizens Against UFO Secrecy' has currently a case before the courts to make the US government give access to this 'hardware'.

The idea that there is some vast conspiracy of silence in respect to government involvement with UFOs is deep rooted. Should anyone write critically upon the subject of UFOs and then turn out to have some connection with the authorities he is immediately damned as suspect. This is illustrated in the case of the new American science journal OMNI (available on UK bookstalls each month). This has a regular column called 'UFO Update', written by James Oberg. This feature blends criticism and praise with a considerable volume of information on the UFO scene. The criticism is hard, but at the same time it is of a character far different from the 'micky-taking' familiar to ufologists in the pages of the media. For example, Oberg reports that American ufologist David Schroth has discovered that the following statement, which appeared in the first edition of the 1959 book THE REPORT ON UFOs by Edward Ruppelt - the former head of USAF's Project Blue Book, was omitted from later printings. The statement reads "I can quite safely say that we have no record of our ever receiving from our Moonwatch project (a US observation project of the 1950's) any reports of sightings of unidentified objects which had any characteristics different from those of an orbiting satellite, a slow meteor or a suspected plane mistaken for a satellite" (1). In 1973 the person who made that statement, and who was personally involved in the Moonwatch project, went on record as saying of the same project "I know that during the satellite-tracking mission we picked up a number of things that appeared on films but were never tracked down...." (2) The person who made these two, highly contradictory, statements is well known to ufologists. It is Dr J. Allen Hynek. What Oberg wanted to know was the reason for this volte-face, and why the original statement was suppressed from later editions of Ruppelt's book. This is not an unreasonable request, and the implied criticism is quite legitimate.

What has this to do with ufology and governments, you may now be thinking, and where does Oberg come in? Quite a lot, for Oberg is condemned by some ufologists not only for his criticism but also because he is a serving US Air Force officer. His critics clearly view him as some sort of 'front man' briefed to bring ufology into disrepute. Oberg does not deny his Air Force status, but the mere fact that he is an officer is enough to condemn him in the eyes of his critics. His reasoned criticism is pushed aside and the attacks are on the man himself. With what almost reads like a scream of triumph American ufologist Robert Barrow put this in reply to one of Oberg's articles.... "you are a US Air Force Officer in fine standing.... I knew of you as Captain Oberg. I should not doubt you are now Major..." (3)

THE MYTH & THE REALITY Cont...

This news was not long in getting into the Maerican ufological press, "...James Oberg...is still with NASA. He is also an officer in the Air Force" (4) The reasoning is now plain, so it comes as no suprise to read Mr Barrow asserting: "I wonder what the air force would have done to me (he was a staff sargeant) had I written pro-UFO articles during my enlistment..." (5)

In one of his OMNI articles Oberg discussed the role of the government in the UFO mystery, and on the basis of the information available concluded that "top officials in government appear to have been as baffled by the UFO phenomenon as everyone else" Oberg continued, "government attitudes ranged from naive credulity to paranoid suspicion, to knee-jerking hostility. The government was evidently working with no better data than that possessed by the general public" (6) In short, Oberg makes the point, and I think it correct, that the same influences which moulded public opinion in respect to UFOs acted upon those we term 'the authorities' I sometimes think, on reading some ufological literature, that the writers imagine that those who constitute government are a different species of life!

The well-known ufological dabbler, Dr Jacques Vallee, has recently summed up what he thinks to be the public attitude in respect to governments and UFOs. He writes: "the public is already cynical about the roles and values of government science, and military establishments. The mere statement that unknown objects are penetrating our atmosphere and manoeuvring at will would further erode peoples confidence in all political structures. It would generate fear in many sectors. Consequently, there is an attempt on the parts of the governments in every country to contain such potential effects by limiting information about unexplained phenomena" (7) I suspect that Vallee's considered opinion is largely wishful thinking, for in the main I feel that the public would display its usual apathy if faced with claims concerning the UFO violation of our atmosphere. But Vallee is quite correct in referring to governments withholding information. In Britain the MOD maintains a special department to act as its mouthpiece and comment on UFOs. It would appear that some investigative work is also carried out. However, the results of this work are never made public. J. B. Longhorn has referred to the defence authorities "absurd secret holding of records" and their refusal to cooperate with "trained volunteer research societies" (8), while Jenny Randles has attempted to reason the MOD into cooperating and opening their files. In the course of the correspondence which passed between Miss Randles and the MOD the latter said that their UFO reports gave no evidence of any military threat to Britain, but still refused to open their files on the grounds that to do so would entail considerable editing of confidential material, since witness names and addresses are 'classified' information. Thus Miss Randles met the same blank wall (9)

But can the government attitude be really said to reflect fear, as Vallee suggests, or shortsightedness, as Longhorn would have it? Could the supposed plot to hide earth shattering information be nothing more than a real concern over the possibility that data vital to our nations defence will get into the wrong hands? Wider matters than simply a few UFO cases could be involved. Whatever the political complexion of a government it must concern itself with what it sees as the national interest and confidentiality is a real issue, as is the question of economics involved in the release of such data. It may be that some witnesses observed top secret weapon systems under test, and whilst what they spotted was unimportant, a thorough investigation could well reveal data that any government concerned with national defence would wish to keep from the public. This was hinted at in one MOD response to Miss Randles, when reference was made to the need to delete "any reference to classified subjects" (10). The significance of this appears to have been missed.

All in all, then, we do not live in an ideal situation and must accept a natural reluctance by government to permit access to data with possible defence implications. Yet there is a further point that must carry considerable weight. To permit access to one set of files, even in a strictly limited sense, opens the door to demands for access to other government records. To permit access before the expiry of the stipulated time limit would set a set a dangerous precedent. Perhaps in all our debates about governments and UFOs we have let our interest in the subject blind us to the wider issues. Certainly government secrecy exists, but I seriously doubt that it represents a sinister conspiracy. This tale, I strongly suspect, is the invention of certain authors anxious for a gimmick to sell their books.

THE MYTH & THE REALITY References:

- 1: OMNI Vol 1 No 5, February 1979 p 130
3: OMNI Vol 1 No 4, January 1979 pp 12-13
4: THE MUNDO MONITOR No 10 February 1979 p 4
6: As ref 1
7: EARTH COLONISATION REPORT Vol 3-10 March 1979 pp6-7
8: "Ufology & Science" EARTHLINK Winter 1978-79 p3
9:10: "The Ministry of Defence Approach" FSR Vol 24 No 3, 1978 pp 27-28
2 Ibid
5. As ref 3

UFOs AND THE GOVERNMENT.....7) "Secrecy, Complacency, or Idiocy?" Jenny Randles (MUFORA)

I have read the various contributions to this issue with considerable interest. The variety of approaches (despite the clear 'two-camp' situation) has thrown up some intriguing questions. For myself I had wondered about this problem for a time now. Not only did I, as Dr Morrell puts it, try to "reason the MOD into cooperation" in an illuminating exchange but I wrote a fictional novel (no doubt doomed to be read by just myself and a few friends) which explored the theme of what could be beyond the MOD and how it would cope. It was pure fantasy cum speculation, but many points raised, by Ron Saregeant and David Sydeserff especially, are interwoven oddly.

Yet - that was 'mind wandering' - what about reality? Well, nobody can deny that the MOD have investigated sightings and have come up with a familiar 10% unknowns factor. Their figures state that. Clearly then, they like us have been confronted with the reality of something. What have they done with that knowledge? There are three possible answers :- a great deal (in which case secrecy is inevitable), a little (involving complacency and just routine secrecy) or nothing (which means idiocy - even if it is excusable under the strained circumstances)

According to the MOD they have no files pre-1959, and I accept that. The phenomenon never really 'caught on' in Britain until the 1954 wave and in the early days it would have been easy to regard it as 'post war American craziness'. Being noted for our conservatism is it surprising that we took ten years longer than the USA to accept that something more than mass hysteria was involved and that the problem would not just fly away, as it apparently arrived. During the low key investigations of the 1960's the MOD probably ended up with the same confused picture we have now. There was a phenomenon - but it did not seem much of a threat - and it could be natural and physical, psychological, just conceivably alien -(or a bit of all three) Based on that what would the government have done?

I credit our parliament with some sense so the idiocy answer is probably not right. The potential scientific value must have been recognised, but as there was nothing to guarantee it was going to revolutionise the world overnight no vast research programme would be justified. Similarly with economic crises looming there would be far too many other problems to think of rather than one which had apparently been around for centuries and which presumably (it was thought) would still be there to study if and when the money became available. So no giant cover-ups either I think.

It seems inevitable to me that the complacency road was followed. Recognition of an interesting problem with potential important implications would probably lead to a desire to keep options open. Keeping tabs on things to see how it goes, being ready to act if, by chance, some real evidence of a 'defence threat' established itself. In this light the MOD actions are entirely logical. Play down the significance of UFOs to prevent the public swamping their meagre staff resources. They knew these reports would still flood into the UFO groups and it is so much easier to watch over these. After all we hardly have a panache for keeping things to ourselves! The House of Lords subscribes to FSR, and no doubt can pick up other literature at will. The House of Commons even has its own copy now! No doubt it is simple and cost free to keep a few checks on certain UFO figures likely to obtain reports - mail can be intercepted and X-rayed, phones can (and are) tapped with frequency for many things - so if the defence of the UK is even remotely at risk why not? It worries me none, since it is gratifying to feel that at least something is being done and the problem is not totally in our hands. It cannot be.

As for going further, and infiltrating and subverting UFO groups. I suppose one cannot deny that it is possible and makes some sense, but I doubt if anything more than the measures discussed already are needed. We do a fair job of subverting ourselves, sad to say! Even so David Sydeserff, at least, will be interested in an article of mine called 'The Suicide Syndrome' which I wrote on this topic a month or two ago and which is to appear in the next issue of AWARENESS.

SECRECY, COMPLACENCY, OR IDIOCY? Co it...

There are still a few nagging doubts. Gordon Creigh n used to work in the same building as the MOD and continually assures me that the stories of a couple of secretaries being all they have are nonsense. I wonder, too, about two stories told personally to me over the past few years. One came from a top rank scientist in the UK Satellite industry, whom I met on a train. Our conversation turned to UFOs all too late in the journey, but he did say that he had seen several pictures of UFOs on their cameras which had been proclaimed unknowns. Then he added, "I don't suppose I should have told you that" and disappeared into the crowds. The other is a prominent person in government from yesteryear, who does not like his UFO interest known. He told me of an overheard conversation when a very, very well known government figure from the past referred to a crashed UFO held in a south Wales air base, and yes... you guessed it... it was complete with little men. Fantasies, rumpurs or truth? These are spanners in the works, sure enough, but are they enough to stop the machine?

A WIERD CASE OF UFO STIGMATA

Report by Ted Horton of UFOSIS

November 15 1978 Sutton, Coldfield, V, Midlands CE4 TR Level 4

This case is still under investigation, but is included here in case any of our readers (in the UK or abroad) have ever come across anything like it in the past. If so the investigators would certainly like to hear from you.

It concerns a man called Heywood, who works for a local newspaper (note - in case you are wondering - that the case has not been publicised). He awoke on the morning of the 15th, as usual, at 7am and followed his daily routine. He recalled a vague dream about space and 'flying saucers' but no details. Whilst washing he noticed a trickle of blood on his lower right forearm, just above the wrist, but thought no more than to wonder how he had cut himself in the night. It had not been present when he washed himself immediately before going to bed. At 12.00 the day, whilst waiting between assignments, a colleague handed him a cup of coffee and when he reached for it he noticed that the 'superficial' scratch was rather odd. It now appeared as congealed blood and much more noticable. Clearly the letters U.F.O. were etched out in fine lines with two figures underneath that looked like 7 and 8. At 12.30 a colleague urged him to photograph the marks. This was done and the U.F.O. configuration is clearly visible. The figures are less distinct but the witness claims these became more prominent during the course of that day. On arrival home he informed his wife who advised that the next door neighbour (not yet interviewed) had told her earlier that at 2am that previous night she had awoken to find the outside bathed in what she called 'a peculiar electric blue light'. It should be mentioned that a full moon did pervade that night. The skin marks were at no time treated by medication nor cause any pain. They gradually faded until by November 25 they had disappeared altogether. It is interesting to add that both husband and wife claim that shortly after they were married, in Summer 1954, they lived in flats in an old house (now demolished) near Birmingham. They awoke at 2am to the sounds of gunfire and the light of ac-ac fire and bursting bombshells. The smell of cordite filled the air. All hell was let loose for about a minute, whereupon all went suddenly silent. On later checks it was found that in that precise location there had been a world war two gun emplacement to defend the city. It was removed shortly after the end of the war... in 1945!

LANDING AND POSSIBLE TRACES NEAR LEEDS Report by Mark & Graham Birdsall, UFO

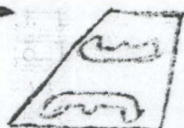
February 22 1979 Meanwood, West Yorkshire CE2 TR Level 4

This case involves two 14 year old girls, who were sledging on a snow covered slope of the valley side. The first thing that they saw were a series of light, a few hundred feet above their head. There were three green and a larger red one. Their initial reaction was that they were viewing a helicopter, but then suddenly it emitted an ear-piercing whine and began to spiral down towards them, scaring the life out of them both. They stood rooted to the spot as it slowly descended.

When it reached about 100 feet it stopped spiralling and the speed reduced. It now flew straight down to land, part on and part off a path about 30 feet from them. It was dark, but there was enough light to see the strangeness of this object. As it settled into the snow the whine changed to a hum and stopped altogether as it came to rest. It was lens shaped and grey in colour, with what looked like small 'fins' at each end. In size it was similar to a small car (about eight by four feet). The girls edged away and then burst into a run, stopping at a safer distance of about 150 feet looking back. It remained on the ground for about 3 or 4 minutes, light still blazing. Then it rose slowly upwards,



UFO



Marks

humming softly again. After rising to 100 feet it headed towards them, and then back tracked in an arc to land about 80 feet from them lower down the slope on a much steeper part. After a further minute it began to wobble and then rose to accelerate way, lights flickering slightly, until it vanished in the distance. The girls rushed indoors and were immediately separated to draw what they had seen. The drawings were very similar. Investigation of the sites three days after the events revealed two peculiar, but similar, marks. These were impressed into compacted ice - in a spot which remember was steep and fairly inaccessible. The marks were three feet across and seven feet apart and looked like an enlarged (see drawing above). A series of blackened stones was found by the depressions and samples were taken and analysed by Leeds University for us. The results show the not unexpected presence of compounds such as fertilizers, plus lead, tin and zinc, but also heavy presence of coalite and carbon residue. The significance of these results - if any - is hard to determine. A full report on this case will feature in FSR in due course.

Report...7943

BEDSIDE EXPERIENCE IN HUMBERSIDE

Report by Martin Keatman, UFOIN

Unknown night 1976 Anonymous Humberside site CE4 Physio Level C

This was one of the BUFORA allocation of cases from the Daily Express, but the investigation has been hampered by the witness's total refusal for interview and threats of legal action of his name or even the town where he lives are quoted. He wishes no publicity to detract from what he calls his 'good job and happy life'. It is impossible, of course, to conclude whether this was a real experience or an hallucination - and it has interest but no direct relevance to UFO studies. The witness insists he was awake and was not dreaming.

He awoke in the middle of the night to a loud humming that he describes as like an electric motor. It was of fixed volume and pitch and did not hurt his ears. Lying on his back he could see that a white light filled the ceiling, and a dull white shaped glow was beside his bed. This was about 10 feet in diameter. Thinking he was dreaming the witness tried to ignore it, but found he was paralysed and could not move any part of his body. Oddly, however, he felt neither fear nor any discomfort. The experience appears to have been very pleasurable. Time now lost any sense of meaning and all he recalls is the next phase, when he felt his 'consciousness' pulled out of his body by an 'external force'. He says it was 'like being aware without being'. He felt himself fly around the room at great speed, just below the ceiling, circumnavigating obstacles and feeling at ease. Then he found himself back 'inside', although he does not know how, with the white shape and the humming fading away. He was now able to move, but relaxed and able to sleep with no after effects. The witness is aged 29 and an apparently rational, laboratory assistant. He claims that this is the first strange encounter of any kind that he has had.

Report 76-163

As this magazine goes to press we learn from Gaynor Sunderland, witness to the strange CE3 experience in Bakenholt, Flint (see NUN and FSR Vol 25 No 2 and 3), that she now claims to have undergone a contact experience on June 25 this year. Full details of this experience are being evaluated and will be featured in due course. It involves the same entities, and information transfer about their 'home'.